

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ROME 05658 051957Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----060311Z 072120 /72-62

R 051915Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3821
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
OJCS WASHDC
NSA CSS
CSAF WASHDC
CSA WASHDC
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
CNO WASHDC

S E C R E T ROME 5658

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2
TAGS: MILI, IT
SUBJECT: PLANNED REDUCTIONS AT SAN VITO DEI NORMANNI

REF: STATE 073700

1. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE GOI BE INFORMED OF PLANS TO EFFECT PERSONNEL REDUCTIONS AT SAN VITO DEI NORMANNI AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. WE WOULD PROPOSE NOTIFYING BOTH MINISTRIES OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND DEFENSE AT THE WORKING LEVEL TO BEGIN WITH IN ORDER TO ENLIST THEIR COOPERATION IN MEETING THE PROBLEMS WE FORESEE. TO DO SO, HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE IT ESSENTIAL TO BE ABLE TO EXPLAIN OUR REASONS FOR REDUCING PERSONNEL AT SAN VITO IN MORE PERSUASIVE TERMS THAN THE NEED TO CUT MANPOWER COSTS. ECONOMIZING AT THE EXPENSE OF ITALIAN JOBS (AS THE REDUCTION WILL BE SEEN) IS NOT A NEED WITH WHICH THE PRESENT GOI OR ITALIAN LABOR UNIONS CAN SYMPATHIZE.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 ROME 05658 051957Z

WE ASSUME THAT A GOOD MANY OFFICIAL ITALIANS HAVE A GENERAL UNDERSTANDING OF THE MISSION OF THE FACILITY AT SAN VITO. A DRASTIC REDUCTION IN PERSONNEL WILL BE SEEN BY THOSE MOD AND MFA AUTHORITIES AS A CUTBACK OF THE MISSION ITSELF. WE WILL BE ASKED WHAT CIRCUMSTANCES NOW PREVAIL THAT MAKE THE ACTIVITIES OF SAN VITO LESS IMPORTANT. WE WILL BE ASKED WHETHER ALTERNATIVE ENTER-

PRISES ARE PLANNED. WE SHOULD BE IN A POSITION TO RESPOND FRANKLY TO THESE QUESTIONS IF WE HOPE TO ENGAGE THE COOPERATION OF THE GOI AND TO ALLAY FEARS THAT THERE ARE DEEPER POLICY IMPLICATIONS IN THE REDUCTION AT SAN VITO THAN WE WISH BE INFERRED.

2. MEANWHILE IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS CONTINUE TO BE IMPLEMENTED AT THE FACILITY, THE NEED FOR WHICH MAY BE SUPERSEDED BY THE PERSONNEL REDUCTION PLAN. WE ASSUME, HOWEVER, THAT DOD HAS THIS ASPECT IN HAND. AND IN THE TWO-YEAR PERIOD UNTIL THE REDUCTION PLAN GOES INTO EFFECT, WE TRUST A LOCAL HIRING FREEZE WILL REMAIN IN EFFECT TO PERMIT SOME REDUCTION BY ATTRITION WHETHER OR NOT SOME SERVICES AT THE FACILITY ARE CURTAILED IN THE INTERIM BY THE VACANCIES.

3. PERSONNEL REDUCTIONS OF THE MAGNITUDE CONTEMPLATED AT SAN VITO DEI NORMANNI WILL AT BEST BE DIFFICULT TO CARRY OUT WITHOUT FACING COLLATERAL AND POSSIBLY SEVERE IMPACT ON OTHER U.S. MILITARY FACILITIES IN ITALY. THE STRIKE AT SAN VITO A YEAR AGO DEMONSTRATED THE ABILITY AND WILLINGNESS OF LABOR UNIONS TO VIRTUALLY CLOSE DOWN OUR ACTIVITIES IN SUPPORT OF TENURE OF ITALIAN EMPLOYEES. WE HAVE BEEN ABLE RECENTLY TO MANAGE AT LEAST TWO SIGNIFICANT REDUCTIONS IN FORCE AT OTHER U.S. MILITARY WITHOUT ACTUALLY PUTTING ANY OF OUR ITALIAN EMPLOYEES ON THE STREET. IN BOTH CASES IT WAS POSSIBLE TO TRANSFER A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES TO OTHER DUTIES WITHIN A COMPLEX OF VARIED MILITARY ACTIVITIES. THE SITUATION AT
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 ROME 05658 051957Z

SAN VITO WILL NOT PERMIT THAT KIND OF CUSHION. THEREFORE WE SHOULD BEGIN CONSULTATIONS AT AN EARLY DATE WITH THE UNIONS REPRESENTED AT SAN VITO, CERTAINLY BEFORE RUMORS ABOUT AN IMPENDING RIF BEGIN CIRCULATING. ALTHOUGH THE UNION LEADERSHIP WILL NOT BE HAPPY WITH OUR DECISION, IN OUR EXPERIENCE A CANDID DIALOGUE WITH THEM CAN SERVE TO PREVENT OVERREACTION. GARDNER

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONNEL MOVEMENTS, MILITARY BASES, FORCE & TROOP LEVELS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 05-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ROME05658
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X2
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770119-0154
Format: TEL
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770486/aaaacxftp.tel
Line Count: 104
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 4e16efa9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 77 STATE 73700
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2892756
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PLANNED REDUCTIONS AT SAN VITO DEI NORMANNI
TAGS: MILI, IT
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/4e16efa9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009